097.3 C.11
Z1092
2500.20/45

RESTRICTED

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Research and Analysis Branch

R & A 2500.20

GERMAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT OVER EUROPE:
TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TROOPS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

RECEIVED

Description

A study of the organization and functions in occupied Europe of German Technical and Economic Troops in the sense of the Technical and Economic Troops of the Armed Forces, the Organization Todt, the Reich Labor Service, the Technical Emergency Service, and other para-military groups.

Washington

19 January 1945

RESTRICTED

70)

This study is Part Two, V, of the series

GERMAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT OVER EUROPE

the outline of which is as follows:

Part One. Principles and Methods of German Military Government over Europe

Part Two. German Controls in Occupied Europe

I. The German Army in Occupied Europe
II. The SS and Police in Occupied Europe
III. Military and Police Tribunals in Occupied Europe
IV. The Nazi Party in Occupied Europe
*V. Technical and Economic Troops in Occupied Europe
VI. Economic and Financial Controls in Occupied Europe
VII. Labor Controls in Occupied Europe
VIII. Propaganda in Occupied Europe

Part Three. The German Occupation of Individual Regions

Section One. Areas of Military Administration

I. Belgium
II. France
III. Greece

Section Two. Areas of Civil Administration

I. The Netherlands
II. Norway
III. Ostland and the Ukraine

Section Three. Appended Territories (Nebenländer)

I. The Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia
II. The General Government

Section Four. Satellite States

I. Albania
II. Denmark
III. Italy
IV. Slovakia
V. Yugoslavia

Section Five. Annexed Territories

I. Western Territories Incorporated in the Reich
II. Eastern Territories Incorporated in the Reich

TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TROOPS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

A. Introduction 1

B. The Technical and Economic Troops of the Armed Forces 2

1. The Operational Phase 2
   a. Technical Commands 2
   b. The General of the Technical Troops 2
   c. Functional Division of the Troops 3

2. The Army Rear Zone 4
   a. The Economic Staffs and Inspectorates 5
   b. The Economic Commands 5
      (1) Agricultural Resources 5
      (2) Industrial Activities 6

C. The Organization Todt (OT) 8

1. Structure 8

2. Front Workers. 9
   a. Types and Uses 9
   b. Wages and Hours 11

3. Strength 12

4. The OT during Military Operations 13

5. The OT during Occupation 15

D. The Reich Labor Service (Reichsarbeitsdienst -- RAD) 16

1. History and Aims 16

2. Relation to the Armed Forces 16

3. Structure 17

4. Operations in Occupied Europe 18
   a. Western Occupied Territories. 19
   b. Eastern Occupied Territories 19

E. The Technical Emergency Corps (Technische Nothilfe -- TN) 21

1. Structure and Strength 21

2. The TN and Police on the Regional Level 22

3. The TN in the Army Rear Zones and during Operations 23

F. The National Socialist Motor Corps (Nationalsozialistische Kraftfahrkorps -- NSKK) 25

G. Fire Protection Police (Feuerschutzpolizei) Regiments 27

V. TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TROOPS IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

A. INTRODUCTION

By Technical and Economic Troops is understood the technical and economic units of the German Armed Forces and of those semi-military organizations outside the Armed Forces which fulfilled functions usually performed by army units. The following auxiliaries of the German Armed Forces are included in this term:

1. The Technical and Economic Troops of the German Armed Forces. (Their purpose was the technical and administrative control of occupied territory, especially in the Army Rear Zones.)
2. The Organization Todt
3. The Reich Labor Service (Reichsarbeitsdienst)
4. The Technical Emergency Corps (Technische Nothilfe)
5. The National Socialist Motor Corps (NS Kraftfahrkorps -- NSKK)
6. The Fire Protection Police

Other organizations employed (eingesetzt) by the Wehrmacht were:

7. The Order Police
8. The Customs Guards
9. The Voluntary Nursing Organization
10. The German Railroads
11. The German Postal Service
12. The National Socialist Fliers' Corps (NSFK)
13. The National Socialist People's Welfare Organization (NSV)

B. THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC TROOPS OF THE ARMED FORCES

1. The Operational Phase

a. Technical Commands

The Supreme Command of the Armed Forces organized Technical Commands (Technische Kommandos) prior to the invasion of Poland. Their personnel was then supplied by the Technical Emergency Corps (Technische Nothilfe), but they were incorporated into the Armed Forces. They entered occupied territory with the combat troops. Their tasks were to facilitate the supply of the German Army, to salvage raw materials, machines, plants, and all other equipment, and to put into operation all those industrial installations and public utilities that were necessary to carry on military activities. The Technical Command during the Polish campaign moved into Warsaw the day of the city's surrender, 30 September 1939, and started at once the repair of the electric, gas, and water systems.

In the Technical Commands, the Commanders were usually assisted by a staff of three officers and by a varied number of technicians selected from among the Technical Troops according to the work to be done. The Technical Commands co-operated closely with the various semi-military organizations listed above (A).

b. The General of the Technical Troops

In the early part of the Russian campaign (August 1942) a General of the Technical Troops (General der Technischen Truppen) was appointed to serve on the General Staff of the Army, with his office at the headquarters of the Army High Command. The General of the Technical Troops, with the disciplinary powers of a Divisional Commander, belonged to the staff of the Quartermaster in the Army General Staff. The Quartermaster General was his immediate superior. The General of the Technical Troops advised the General Staff

on all questions coming under his jurisdiction and dealt with all problems concerning his troops. He suggested the operations of the troops and issued the orders concerning them. The Armament Division (Waffenabteilung) of the Technical Troops in the office of the Chief of Army Equipment (Chef der Heeresrüstung und Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres) was at his disposal.1/ The powers of the General of the Technical Troops were confined to the front line and did not extend to the Army Rear Zone. Training and replacement were handled by the Inspector of Technical Troops, a subordinate of the Chief of Training in the Replacement Army.

c. Functional Division of the Troops

Only a few functional units of the Technical Troops can be identified:

(1) A Mining Battalion (Bergbaubattalion) divided into mining companies, composed of miners who had been inducted into the Army. Their task was to make the most immediate repairs of coal mines and petroleum installations damaged either in military operations or by the "scorched-earth" policy of the retreating enemy.

(2) Agricultural-Technical Platoons (landwirtschaftlich-technische Züge) were composed of grain-mill master craftsmen and workers, and of workers formerly employed in refrigeration and canning factories. They moved into a theater of operations in order to establish grain mills and repair or set up refrigeration and canning facilities to assist in the supply of the German Army.

(3) Construction Troops (Bautruppen) were reclassified as construction engineers (Baupioniere) in 1943. They included railway, bridge, fortress, and naval construction

---

1/ This centralization of auxiliary troops within the German Army was not confined to the Technical Troops alone. For instance, generals were appointed to a great variety of branches, such as the transportation services.

battalions, and cooperated with RAD (Reich Labor Service) and Air Force construction troops. A special inspector of construction engineers was attached to the Army High Command.

The functional division of war economic units can be deduced from the organization of their replacement battalions: one such battalion was responsible for the replacement of technical specialists in the fields of raw materials, petroleum, and allied industry; another for specialists in agriculture; a third for replacements of specialists in all other fields of war economy.

Reportedly, mobile units of the economic section attached to an army headquarters accompanied German troops from the start of an offensive. They investigated economic conditions of conquered territories and seized materiél important to the war economy. Agricultural specialists traced available stocks.

2. In the Army Rear Zone[1/]

While the Technical Troops used in operations were primarily engaged in securing the supply for the combat forces, the Technical and Economic Troops in the Army Rear Zone (rückwärtiges Heeresgebiet) aimed at the technical and economic reorganization and administration of all agricultural and industrial resources, whether of material or of labor power.

The economic exploitation of Army Rear Zones came under the jurisdiction of the German Army, although the personnel was composed not only of military and civilian members of the Armed Forces, but also to a considerable extent of other civilians. Besides twenty-five Armament Inspectorates (Rüstungsinspektionen) within Germany, there

1/ For further details, see the chapter "Economic Controls in Occupied Europe," Part II, VI, and the various sections dealing with specific occupied countries.

were six in occupied countries, usually headed by a general. They directed the work of seventy-one Armament Commands (Rüstungskommandos), usually headed by lieutenant colonels. The purpose of this war-economy organization was the co-ordinated direction of the war production program and of allocation of raw materials.

a. The Economic Staffs and Inspectorates

The economic organization of the Army Rear Zone was best developed for the East. The work was concentrated in the Economic Staff East (Wirtschaftsstab Ost), located at Berlin and working under the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces. The Economic Staff East operated three Economic Inspectorates (Wirtschaftsinspektionen) -- North, Center, and South. These units were functionally divided into so-called Main Departments (Chefgruppen) as follows:

Chefgruppe W ------Economics (Wirtschaft)
Chefgruppe La------Agriculture (Landwirtschaft)
Chefgruppe Arbeit--Labor
Chefgruppe Foho----Forests and Timber (Forst und Holz
Chefgruppe BB------Rationalization and Vocational Training (Betriebsförderung und Berufserziehung)

The Economic Inspectorate South had, in addition, a Chefgruppe for the Donetz coal mines. All Inspectorates closely co-operated with the semi-military organizations noted above.

b. The Economic Commands

The Economic Inspectorates were also subdivided regionally into Economic Commands (Wirtschaftskommandos), in most of which the functional division of the higher unit was duplicated.

(1) Agricultural Resources

The major activity of the Economic Commands in the Army Rear Zone was in the field of agriculture and labor.1/

1/ In the labor field, the operation of the Economic Inspectorates and Economic Commands is discussed in the chapter "Labor Controls in Occupied Europe," Part Two, VII.

The Commands operated through the agricultural-technical platoons mentioned above. They collected tractors and other agricultural machinery, investigated the state of milling, refrigeration, and canning facilities, and repaired, built, and secured such agricultural machinery as was necessary for the fullest utilization of agricultural resources.

For the cultivation of agricultural products and their delivery, each Economic Command operated through a number (eight to twelve) of regional officials, the so-called Regional Farmers (Gebietslandwirte). Each Regional Farmer controlled four County Farmers (Kreislandwirte), and each County Farmer had under him three or four Outpost Leaders (Stützpunktleiter). These officials co-operated closely with the corporations set up by the Reich Commissioners in the Occupied Eastern Territories in order to insure the delivery of agricultural products for Germany, such as the Zentralhandelsgesellschaft Ost (for agricultural products proper) and the Ostfaser, a limited liability company (for natural and synthetic fibers).1/

(2) Industrial Activities

In the organization of industry in occupied Eastern Europe, the work of the Economic Inspectorates and Economic Commands was much more limited, due to the general destruction of industrial plants. Their major activity in the industrial field was confined to the textile and building material industries, where the Germans operated the so-called "Industrial Remainder" (industrielle Rest), those installations which survived the "scorched-earth" tactics of the retreating armies of the Soviets.

1/ A fuller discussion of these and similar corporations will be found in the regional study of the Eastern occupied territories, Part Three, Section Two, III.

The Chefgruppe W was concerned with the repair and operation of smaller industrial plants which were especially needed for maintaining the supply of electric power and the operation of motor vehicles. In addition the Group collected scrap for shipment to Germany.

C. THE ORGANIZATION TODT (OT)

The late Minister Dr. Fritz Todt, Nazi Germany's foremost road builder, organized the OT in May 1938, primarily from the Reich Labor Service, for the purpose of building Germany's western defenses. Later, Albert Speer, Hitler's favorite architect and Todt's competitor, obtained permission to establish the so-called Construction Staff Speer (Baustab Speer) with functions similar to those of the OT. With the death of Todt and the promotion of Speer to all positions previously held by him, the OT and the Construction Staff Speer were merged into a single organization. The OT was thereafter directed by Speer, who was also Minister for Armament and War Production.

The main tasks of the OT in Occupied Europe were the erection of fortifications, the cleaning up and reconstruction of bombed regions, the improvement of communications, the preparation of sites for air fields, and the clearance of harbors.

An organization allied with OT under Minister Speer was the Speer Transport Brigade. Starting in Germany, its activities spread to German-occupied Europe. In December 1944 it was reported as recruiting Italians as masons, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, licensed drivers, trainees of all categories, and common laborers.

1. Structure

The structure of the OT was reorganized in 1943. Speer remained the political chief of the organization, but Ministerial Director Xaver Dorsch of Speer's ministry was put in charge of its operations.

The central organization was divided into two departments: Administration and Front Leadership (Frontführung). The latter division, under a separate chief, was entrusted with

the actual operation of the organization. The construction projects were directed by the Chief Engineer and his staff.

The Frontführung was divided into the following sections:

a. Propaganda Section (Werbestelle)
b. Personnel Office for Front Leaders
c. Personnel Office for Front Workers
d. Direction of Operations (Einsatzleitung)
e. Wages and Hours
f. Food and Housing

There was also an intelligence and security organization for the front workers and a special inspectorate for camouflage and gas protection.

Attached to the central organization were four special units: for indoctrination of front workers; for indoctrination of front leaders; for supply and combat material; for representation of the Labor Front. The OT had its own medical corps and signal corps. The control of motor vehicles was left to the National Socialist Motor Corps (NSKK).

The Front Leadership consisted usually of a front leader, a senior troop leader, a troop leader (in charge of supply), and a quartermaster.

The highest operational unit of the OT was called Allocation Staff (Einsatzstab). Attached to an Army Group (Heeresgruppe), each staff was usually divided into Contingents (Einsätze), which were the bases of the operational units. The Contingents, in turn, were subdivided into Units (Einheiten), each of which was composed of six Construction Troops (Bautruppen). The Construction Troop, which was usually the lowest operational unit, was ordinarily composed of 125 workers, although it was sometimes subdivided into still smaller units (Kolonnen and Rotten).

2. Front Workers

a. Types and Uses

The members of the OT were called front workers (Frontarbeiter). Two quite distinct types of front workers

existed: direct and indirect. The first type was in the direct employment of the OT. The second belonged only indirectly to the OT, due to the incorporation into the OT of whole construction firms. The indirect front workers were controlled by a dual authority, their employers and the leaders of the OT.

Both types of workers were under military discipline and wore uniforms. The indirect front workers were used primarily for the construction of specific fortifications, while the direct front workers had the permanent task of carrying out large-scale repair work on roads, bridges, etc., and, in addition, of assisting in the execution of large-scale temporary projects.

All front workers were first collected in a main camp at Berlin (Haupterfassungslager). This camp, established in 1941, was divided into three sections: for leaders and permanent personnel, for German workers, and for foreigners. After receiving medical examinations and training, the workers were dispatched from this camp to the various projects.

OT workers employed outside Germany were under the control of a Special Labor Trustee for the OT. This post was filled by Dr. Schmelter, Reich Labor Trustee for the region of Hessen in Frankfurt a.M., who allocated OT workers for employment abroad. He was also Special Trustee for all indirect OT workers.1/ Recruitment methods are illustrated by the work of the "Bureau of Contact between the Belgrade Municipality and the OT at the Bor Mines," an agency which secured workers for the Bor copper mines in Yugoslavia.

1/ On French OT workers, see L'Atelier (Paris), 13 March 1943, quoted in News Digest No. 1109.

Units composed of foreign front workers were led by Germans, although minor supervisory positions were held by foreigners. Each nationality group, such as German, French, Dutch, Flemish, etc., had its own Frontführungen; a camp leader (Lager Führer) of the same nationality headed each group.

b. Wages and Hours

By a decree of the OT, front workers of the direct type did not receive wages but a so-called Wehrsold corresponding to the pay of the soldier. The wages of all those indirectly employed were regulated by special wage rulings, issued by the Special Trustee of Labor for the OT, Dr. Schmelter. Overseers, etc., received 0.96 marks per hour; unskilled workers, 0.60, while juveniles under eighteen years received four-fifths of these wages. A regulation effective 1 February 1943 established a fixed relation between wages for men and women (which, incidentally, revealed for the first time that women were employed by the OT in considerable numbers).

There were various other wage regulations. A certain number of workers were entitled to "efficiency wages." Each worker had a minimum amount of pay guaranteed if he was unable to perform his work due to an "act of God." Truck drivers and their assistants were exempted from this regulation and were placed under a special wage regulation, which, however, did not cover those drivers directly employed by the OT. A subsequent wage regulation unified the pay of all front workers "in the European space."1/

The wage regulations given above applied not only to Reich German workers but also to so-called "protected nationals"

1/ See Krakauer Zeitung, 18 October 1942.

(Schutzangehörige), with the exception of Poles, Russians, and Germans who were enrolled in groups III and IV of the German Racial Register (Volksliste), a register of former aliens to be assimilated to German nationality. For the latter groups the wage regulations were less favorable. Discrimination between Reich and foreign members of the OT was also practiced in other respects. Separate training camps were maintained for foreign workers.1/

In 1942 the regular indirect employees of the OT worked forty-eight hours a week. Sixty hours were required of machinists and stokers, and seventy-two hours of guards, attendants, cooks, and sanitation personnel.

The dependents of OT workers who were killed, captured, or missing received their wages for the current month and three additional months; headquarters could, in addition, grant a bonus. Thereafter the dependents received compensation according to the established Workmen's Compensation Laws.

3. Strength

In late 1942 forces at the disposal of the OT, most of them foreigners, were divided into the following groups:

Direct front workers	Estimated number
Germans employed on a long-term basis - a group including the managerial, technical, and semi-military supervisory personnel of the whole organization, in addition to skilled and unskilled workers	200,000
Germans employed on a short-term basis	200,000
Foreigners, volunteer and conscripted, employed on a long-term basis	250,000
Foreigners employed on a short-term basis for a single project or group of projects	250,000

1/For a discussion of a training camp of the Flemish OT, see Brüsseler Zeitung, 18 June 1942.

Indirect front workers	Estimated number
Germans and foreigners employed through the incorporation of whole construction firms, i.e., owners and/or managers, workers, and salaried employees	550,000 to 750,000
Prisoners of war whose services were made available to the OT by the proper military authorities	550,000 to 750,000

The geographic disposition of the OT strength as of July 1943 was reported as follows:

Atlantic Wall, Holland to Spanish frontier	500,000
Southern France	100,000
Norway and Denmark	130,000
Southern Europe	200,000
Russia and the East	500,000

These figures, adding up to 1,430,000, represent the disposition of OT forces at that time (July 1943) with a fair degree of accuracy. Since then, however, the military situation in Europe has changed, with resultant changes in the OT. The changes reported are the transfer of OT men to the Alps for fortification work there and the formation of construction gangs in Germany for the rehabilitation of the Ruhr. In the Ruhr, the OT constructed industrial plants, camouflage installations, and air raid shelters, repaired roofs, and performed other tasks as required. Many of these functions were new to the OT as originally planned.

4. The OT during Military Operations

During military operations the OT stood wholly at the disposal of the theater commander, who employed its units according to his discretion. Usually OT units assisted Army engineers in roadbuilding and repair, bridge construction, etc. With the establishment of an Army Rear Force, its commander assumed control over the OT units.

Once territories had been conquered, the OT Allocation Staffs (Einsatzstäbe) were organized for the areas under military government; the unit in France, for example, was called Einsatzstab West.

With the establishment of military government controls, the OT usually made contact with all other German agencies engaged in construction projects, especially the Economic Group "Construction Industry" in the Reich Group "Industry," the Reich Guild of Building Artisans for smaller building enterprises, and the regional deputies of the Commissioner General for Building Construction within the Four-Year Plan Office.

All these agencies were, in occupied France, represented in the Liaison Office of the German Construction Industry for the Occupied Western Territories (Verbindungsstelle der deutschen Bauwirtschaft für die besetzten Westgebiete). The director of this office in Paris was Regierungsbaumeister Koch; its manager was Regierungsbaumeister Naschold. The office was located in the Paris liaison office for the organization of German economy. In this way the work of the OT was integrated with that of all other German agencies engaged either in building construction in France or in allocating raw materials for building purposes.

The major task of the OT in the West was the construction of fortifications. Its role was defined as a "link between the entrepreneur and government offices for the military mobilization of the German building economy."

As the OT's tasks were to assist the combatant forces, the Einsatzstab West did not come under the jurisdiction of the Military Commander for Occupied France but under the Commander in Chief of the Army Group West. His subordinate, the Inspector of the Fortifications West (Inspekteur der Landesbefestigungen West) was, in turn, the actual operational

chief of the OT in France.

5. The OT during Occupation

In occupied territories the OT was employed on such long-term projects as the improvement of communications, preparation of air field sites, construction of fortifications, and harbor clearance.

In these OT units foreign labor was either hired or impressed and then organized around a nucleus of German specialists.

A few of the OT units that operated outside Germany and some of their personnel can be identified:

France: Einsatzstab West
Leader, Oberbaudirektor Weiss
(formerly on Champs Elysées, Paris).

South Russia: Einsatzstab Russia-South
Leader, Prof. Walter Brugmann.

Norway: Einsatzgruppe Viking:
Leader, Dr. Ing. Feuchtinger
(also chief of the Hauptamt Technik of the "Sphere of Operations" of the NSDAP Norway). Subdivided as follows:

Einsätze:
Polarbereich (Arctic area), at Lakselv.
Leader, Luers. Oberbauleitungen at Kirkenes and Alta.

North Norway, at Narvik.
Leader, Fickert. Oberbauleitungen at Narvik IF (fortifications), Narvik II^{E} (railroads), and Fauske.

Middle Norway, at Trondheim.
Leader, Altinger. Oberbauleitungen at Rana, Trondheim, Andalnes, Bergen, Toensberg, and Kristianssund.
(Strength in Norway about 35,000 in the summer of 1943.)

Denmark: Einsatz Denmark, at Copenhagen.

D. THE REICH LABOR SERVICE (REICHSARBEITSDIENST -- RAD)

1. History and Aims

The Reich Labor Service was based on the statute of 26 June 1935, as amended on 8 September 1939. In addition, important provisions were contained in three major executive decrees. The decree of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich (20 December 1939) provided for the continuation of the RAD during the war and required a term of labor service for men prior to military service. By a decree of 29 July 1941, girls were also incorporated into the "Second Army," and were required to serve an additional six months (Kriegshilfsdienst) during wartime. In December 1944 Hitler ordered the RAD to assume parts of the actual military training hitherto undertaken by the reserve army.

The Labor Service emerged from the "Voluntary Labor Service " to become a Reich institution. Its chief was Konstantin Hierl, who held the rank of Minister and the title "Reich Labor Leader" and was formally independent of the Reich Ministry of the Interior.1/ Liaison with the National Socialist Party was achieved through Hierl's position as Party Reichsleiter.

The Labor Service was supposedly engaged exclusively in peaceful activities, assisting in reforestation, drainage, construction of highways, etc. However, its real aim, which was made manifest by April 1938, was to prepare the German youth for military service, and various weapons soon superseded the spade as the symbol of the Labor Service.

2. Relation to the Armed Forces

The transformation of the Labor Service into a genuine auxiliary organ of the Armed Forces began in April 1938 when it assisted in the construction of the West Wall.

1/ For the formal position, see Tschaksch, "Reichsarbeitsdienst und Recht," Jahrbuch des Reichsarbeitsdiensts (Berlin), 1941, p. 106.

With the outbreak of the war, the Reich Labor Leader and the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces entered into an agreement by which the Labor Service was placed completely at the disposal of the Armed Forces and became subject to military discipline. Legislation pertaining to such matters as military tribunals and law, and to disabled or killed soldiers, also was applied to RAD members; but at the same time a decree of the Army High Command made it clear that Labor Service members did not thereby become soldiers.

On the other hand, the Office for Technology and Shelter (Amt für Technik und Unterkunft) of the Labor Service assumed the function of an Army agency and was vested by the Army with procurement of barracks. The Chief of the Office (Generalarbeitsführer), Alfred Künzl, was later made National Commissioner for Timber Construction for the military as well as the civilian sector.

From the spring of 1940 on, formations of the Labor Service were placed under military commanders and assisted in various military tasks. Their functions were authoritatively defined as assistance to "the combatant forces in everything that does not directly belong to military operations" and as "a pathbreaker for the Armed Forces."

3. Structure

The Labor Service was divided into Arbeitsgaue, which covered not only the Old Reich but also the incorporated territory, including the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia. The Gau contained six to nine Labor Groups, each Group with five to eight Divisions (Abteilungen); a Division was broken down into Troops, and a Troop into Platoons.

In 1940 the Labor Service was reorganized according to the following functional divisions:

a. Motorized light units
b. Construction companies
c. Building columns (Kolonnen)
d. Heavy road-building companies
e. Railroad construction companies
f. Supply companies
g. Air Force construction companies

During operations the structure of the Labor Service was graded as follows: companies, the lowest units; battalions; divisional construction staffs (Abschnittbaustäbe); and main construction staffs (Oberbaustäbe).

A peacetime RAD detachment called for about 208 men:

1 Oberstfeldmeister
1 Oberfeldmeister
1 Feldmeister
2 Unterfeldmeister
4 Obertruppführer
1 Oberamtswalter or Amtswalter
6 Truppführer
6 Obervormänner
6 Vormänner
At least 180 men

The Labor Service maintained a large number of schools for boys and girls, supervised by an Inspector for Education and Training who was also Chief of Staff of the RAD. Lieutenant General Dr. Wilhelm Decker held this post.

4. Operations in Occupied Europe

The first tasks that the Labor Service performed for the Armed Forces were the construction of airports, especially in Norway, and other work for the Air Force. Other work soon followed: Labor Service units helped in loading and unloading munitions and in building roads. And when necessary, some units fought. The RAD also participated in the "dismantling" of the Maginot Line.

As the Labor Service operated also in the Army Rear Zone and in occupied territory, it was closely co-ordinated with the local Labor Service organizations in occupied countries.

Various types of labor service were instituted in occupied territories:

Denmark:	Labor service was merely a function of Danish Nazi Party. For boys and girls.
Norway:	Service compulsory. Leader: General Froelich Hanssen
Holland:	Service in NAD camps. Service compulsory. Leader: de Bock.
Belgium:	Service compulsory for Belgian residents of Germany. Flemish labor service under Van Thillo; Walloon service under Bauchau.
France:	Law on compulsory labor. But no labor service organization proper.
Government General:	Compulsory labor service for all non-Germans between the ages of 16 and 60, established by the Construction Service Decree (Baudienstverordnung) of 1 December 1940. No labor service organization proper.
Croatia:	Law of 31 July 1942 introduced compulsory service. Leader: General Polcic.
Slovakia:	Partly militarized in November 1944. Abandoned reconstruction work to build fortifications.
Serbia:	Every Serb between the ages of 17 and 45 liable for service.
Bulgaria:	Voluntary service since 1920.
Protectorate:	Compulsory labor, but no labor service organization proper.
Ukraine:	For boys and girls, two years.
Ostland:	The same.
For Volksdeutsche:	Every Folk Group had a German Labor Service, for both girls and boys. The Labor Service of the Volksdeutsche was modelled after German patterns.

Liaison in occupied territories between the local Labor Service organizations and the German Labor Service was maintained by RAD delegates who were attached to a variety of German authorities. In Croatia, in Belgium, and in Northern France they were attached to the military commander in chief; in Holland to the Reich Kommissar; in the Government General to the Governor General; in the occupied East to the Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories; in Slovakia to the German legation. While the delegates in Holland, Norway, the Government General, and Slovakia held the rank of Generalarbeitsführer (equivalent to a German major general), those in Belgium and Croatia were only Oberstarbeitsführer (equivalent to colonel). In most of the territories, operations were headed by Oberarbeitsführer (approximately captain).

The following delegates were identified:

Holland:	Gretschmann
Luxemburg:	Fonck
Norway:	Bormann, Pirogner
Government General:	Hinkel
Slovakia:	Prager
Rumania:	von Stettin-Erb
Croatia:	von Haller

E. THE TECHNICAL EMERGENCY CORPS (TECHNISCHE NOTHILFE -- TN)

1. Structure and Strength

The Technical Emergency Corps (Technische Nothilfe) was founded after the revolution of 1918 as a privately sponsored and privately controlled strikebreaking organization to be used for the operation of railroads and public utilities. In a fitting self-description it was called a "free corps of technicians." It was composed primarily of ex-soldiers and students from universities and technological institutes, and served as a nuclear organization for anti-democratic movements among students. After 1923, its influence declined steadily.

Its role changed after Hitler's rise to power, and in 1933 it was transformed into an auxiliary organ (Hilfsorgan) of the police and placed directly under the Order Police. The national leadership of the TN was transformed into a Reich Office TN (Reichsamt TN) within the Main Office Order Police (Hauptamt Ordnungspolizei). Its chief was Willi Schmelcher, an SS Group Leader and Generalleutnant of Police.

The activities of the TN were placed on a statutory basis by an act of 25 March 1939 which defined its function as follows: "To give technical assistance in fighting public emergencies and to fulfill certain tasks in the defense of the country and in air raid protection."

The following functional branches of the TN operated in Germany:

> Technical Service (Technischer Dienst), used for the operation of lebenswichtige Betriebe -- plants of vital importance, especially public utilities.
>
> Emergency Service (Bereitschaftsdienst), for coping with catastrophes. This service included special platoons (Züge) of skilled men for repairing cables and pipes, rescue work, salvaging material, and other tasks. Units were in a constant state of "readiness" and could be employed whenever necessary.

Repair Service (Instandsetzungsdienst), for repairing air raid damage.

Outside Germany the following functions were undertaken:

TN Detachment on Field Assignments (TN Abteilungen des Feldeinsatzes) in the Army Rear Zone.

TN Divers (TN Taucher) for underwater operations, especially on the Dnieper.

These branches were composed originally of Germans, primarily those who had a technical training or who were students at technological institutes. Later, however, foreigners were mobilized for the German TN. In the Reich Commissariats Ostland and Ukraine, Engineer Police Corps (Pionierschutzmannschaften) were formed of Ukrainians under the supervision of German TN officials.

After October 1942 the TN wore the police uniform with a black insignia on the lapel (Spiegel), in addition to the traditional TN badge. In the field uniforms, armbands with the words "Deutsche Wehrmacht" indicate the affiliation with the Armed Forces. In 1942 the TN had 105,000 members.

2. The TN and Police on the Regional Level

In the spring of 1943 closer co-ordination between the TN and the police was achieved on the regional level. A decree of the Minister of the Interior (4 May 1943) dealt with the incorporation of the regional TN units into the regional organization of the Order Police. The leaders of the provincial groups (Landesgruppen) of the TN were placed under the Inspectors of the Order Police and thereby obtained the functions of Area Inspectors (Bereichsinspekteure) of the TN. They belonged to the staff of the Order Police Inspector and were his advisers on all technical questions, especially in the fields of plant security, dealing with catastrophes, air raid protection, etc. Although placed under the Order Police, the regional TN leaders remained the

superiors of all TN units in their regions. They were centrally directed by the TN chief, Willi Schmelcher.

The lower TN units were not amalgamated with the Ort and Kreis police authorities, probably because there were only a few local TN units. The provincial groups (Landesgruppen) formed more or less an emergency service to be used locally wherever needed.

3. The TN in the Army Rear Zones and during Operations

A similar co-ordination of TN and police work was carried out in the Army Rear Zones. TN Detachments on Field Assignments (Abteilungen des Feldeinsatzes) were subordinated to the Higher SS and Police Leaders of the Army Rear Zones.

During military operations, the TN units stood entirely at the disposal of the Army, which, especially during the Polish campaign, organized the TN units into Technical Commands (Technische Kommandos). They advanced into enemy territory with the combatant forces and were charged with the restoration of destroyed or damaged plants, especially utilities, the demolition of buildings damaged beyond repair, and the removal of unexploded bombs. These duties had to be performed immediately after the cessation of fighting.

The drain on manpower made it mandatory for the Germans to establish native TN organizations which could be incorporated into the German control pattern. Such native TN organizations were identified in the following countries:

Norway:	(Teknisk Noedhjaelp) and a German TN Command Office (Befehlsstelle) with the Commander of the Order Police, Norway.
Holland:	(Technische Noodhulp).
Poland:	Apparently in the Technical Administration (Technische Verwaltung), directed by the Central Technical Office (Technische Zentralamt), Cracow, established there in 1943. Leader: SS Standartenführer Bauder.

Protectorate: Bereitschaftsführer Eisner, head of the TN in Bohemia-Moravia.

German TN units were, however, reported operating in occupied Eastern territory.

F. THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST MOTOR CORPS (NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHE KRAFTFAHRKORPS -- NSKK)

The Motor Corps of the National Socialist Party (NSKK) provided the supply service for all the semi-military organizations mentioned above, especially the OT. Two such NSKK units existed: the NSKK Transport Brigade Speer and the NSKK Transport Brigade Todt. The former, originally only a regiment (Standarte), was established for the supply of the Construction Squad Speer, but soon assisted in the supply of the Army and Air Force. The latter served as the supply organization for the OT. After Todt's death, both brigades were merged into the NSKK Transport Group Todt, divided into NSKK Transport Regiments, and having a reserve detachment in Berlin. Finally, the NSKK was reorganized into four brigades: Heer, Luftwaffe, Speer, and Todt. These brigades were subdivided into Motorstandarten (equivalent in size to a battalion).

Training of leaders was carried out in special schools, including several near Berlin. While equipment consisted originally of light weapons only, training became more and more militarized until it paralleled that for Panzer troops. Technical skill was acquired in a number of training centers (Lehrstätten) and motor schools.

NSKK's main functions were two: to fight with the German Army, and to be responsible for all motor vehicle transportation of OT workers and building materials. The latter task included courier service. In addition, NSKK assisted the police in traffic control in line-of-communication areas. In 1944 training of tank drivers was entrusted to NSKK instructors. With the help of foreign labor NSKK converted factories in occupied countries into motor and railroad repair shops.

The strength of the NSKK was never accurately determined, although in 1940 it was known to have a membership of 500,000. The NSKK vehicles were marked with a special sign "OT."

NSKK units outside Germany have been identified in the following countries:

Protectorate: Motorgruppe Egerland included Standarten M 241 at Prague and M 202 at Troppau. Leader: SA Obergruppenführer Mueller-Seyffert, who was also liaison officer of the NSKK with the Reich Protector.

Government General: There were more than twenty-four Motorstürme and many outposts.

France: Headquarters of a regiment (Standarte) were at the Champs Elysées, Paris. An NSKK transport unit was reported on the Atlantic Wall, and an NSKK Motor Sturm Air Force (Luftwaffe) recruited Frenchmen for the German Air Force.

Frenchmen, Walloons, Flemings, and Dutchmen in the NSKK wore distinctive epaulets.

G. FIRE PROTECTION POLICE (FEUERSCHUTZPOLIZEI) REGIMENTS

All TN, OT, and Labor Service units, whether German or native, were assisted by other German Order Police formations, especially the Fire Protection Police. This police arm, created by the statute of 23 November 1933, was established as a branch fully under the supervision of the Order Police.1/ Just as formations of the Protective Police engaged in combat as SS and Police Regiments under their own officers, so did the Fire Police formations operate as Fire Protection Police Regiments. These regiments supplemented the work of the units mentioned above, whenever their special skills were needed in fire fighting, especially for oil wells and dumps. Such a Fire Protection Regiment was in action in Rotterdam, for instance, after the air raids of 1940.

1/ For details see Lurf, "Feuerschutzpolizei," Die Deutsche Polizei, 1 January 1942.